



# MBAH News & Views

Mississippi Board of Animal Health

Dr. Jim Watson

Dr. Brigid Elchos

WINTER 2013

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Rabies Clinics
- Equine Infectious Anemia
- Cattle Trailer Accident
- **"I Care for Animals"** Car Tags
- MVMA Meeting



## State Veterinarian Update

**It's hard to believe another year has come and gone! It is great to be back in Mississippi after being away for 6 months. It was an honor to have the opportunity to serve our country and I certainly learned a lot from the experience. Whenever I return from another country I'm always reminded how thankful I am to be an American!**

**I would like to say thanks to my wonderful staff for the great job they did during my absence.** Dr. Elchos did a great job leading the agency in addition to having to shoulder a much heavier workload.

As we say goodbye to the old year we also say goodbye to several employees and USDA colleagues. Jerry Bright and Billy Hamrick retired from the MBAH, and Dr. CP Nettles and Dr. Tom Ellis have retired from USDA; and, I would like to wish them success in their retirement. Please **help me welcome Dr. Ken Angel, Dr. Nettle's replacement as AVIC of Mississippi and Louisiana.** He is currently working in the Alabama USDA Area Office and should be in Mississippi by mid-March.



Dr. Jim Watson

### Animal Disease Traceability Update

On March 11, 2013 the new traceability rule will go into effect. The new rule establishes the requirement that livestock and poultry moving interstate must have identification and an Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (OCVI) unless there is a provision for an exemption. Below, I have summarized the requirements of the rule.

**Cattle** are the species that will be most affected so they will be addressed first. Cattle can be divided into three categories, beef, dairy and rodeo/exhibition.

- **Beef cattle** are further divided into breeding cattle and feeders.
  - Beef breeding cattle over 18 months of age must have official identification and be listed on an OCVI to move across state lines.
  - Feeder cattle are not required to have identification, but must have an OCVI to move across state lines (same as now).
- **Dairy cattle** of all ages must be officially identified and listed on an OCVI to move across state lines. Dairy steers and spayed heifers must be identified, however, do not have to be individually listed on the OCVI.
- **Rodeo/exhibition cattle** must be officially identified and listed on the OCVI in order to move interstate.

(continued on page 2)

# State Veterinarian Update Continued...

*Continued from page one...*



Cattle going directly to slaughter can use back tags for identification and an owner shipper statement in lieu of an OCVI.

There is also a provision for farmers to bring cattle across a state line directly to a stockyard to be tagged on arrival.

Other animals included in the rule are horses, sheep, goats, swine, captive cervids and poultry.

Horses will continue to use the current forms of identification such as color, markings, swirls, etc. Sheep and goats are currently required to **be identified and have an OCVI so that won't change.** Captive cervids also already need to be tagged and listed on OCVIs so that will not change. Commercial poultry and swine will use group lot identification, not individual identification.



**One major change is that OCVIs must reach the State Vet's office within seven calendar days, which has seven calendar days to get to the state of destinations' State Veterinarians Office.**



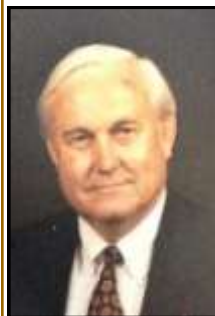
This is just an overview of the rule; there are many more details that have not been covered. For more information visit the USDA Traceability homepage at the following web address: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/>.

Feel free to give me a call with any questions you may have.

Jim Watson, DVM  
State Veterinarian

## Billy Ellington "Bill" Graves, Jr.

August 27, 1936 - August 25, 2012



The Board of Animal Health was saddened to lose one of its longtime friends, Bill Graves.

Mr. Graves was a resident of Winona and had served as a MBAH Board Member since 1972, representing Independent Meat Packers. He was a cattleman and the president of Winona Packing Company. He also served as president of the Mississippi Meat Packers Association and **was a member of the Mississippi Cattleman's Association.**

# Scheduling Rabies Clinics



The MBAH provides vaccine and supplies to local veterinarians that want to hold mass rabies vaccination clinics in their area. The goal of the clinics is to vaccinate animals that would otherwise not be vaccinated for rabies. **The cost for individuals is \$5.00 per animal, with \$3.00 going to the veterinarian and \$2.00 going to the MBAH to purchase additional vaccine and supplies.**

If you are interested in hosting a RVC in your area, contact Dr. Brigid Elchos at [brigid@mdac.ms.gov](mailto:brigid@mdac.ms.gov). Scheduling information is also available on the MBAH website at [www.mbah.ms.gov](http://www.mbah.ms.gov).

# Health Certificates Important at Dixie National

## I Forgot My Health Certificate!

It's that time of year again and the Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo is here. But before a single head of livestock enters the show grounds, a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection must be presented to one of the Mississippi Board of Animal Health (MBAH) employees on duty at the livestock entry point. This entry requirement may seem to be a formality to some, but this health certificate actually documents the fact that all of the animals entering the show facility have been examined by a licensed, accredited veterinarian to ensure that the animals identified on the certificate were apparently healthy on the day of the inspection. The certificate is good for thirty (30) days and may also include test results required by the show managers or the MBAH.

All of the folks that work so hard to make the Dixie National possible want every exhibitor to make this show one to remember. So, before you load the trailer and head for the Dixie National, make sure the health certificates and/or Coggins test certificates are in the truck and nobody has to say, "I FORGOT MY HEALTH CERTIFICATE!"

Ronnie White  
Emergency Coordinator

Mississippi's Animal Working Group met for the 11<sup>th</sup> year at the Mississippi State University Veterinary Research and Diagnostic Laboratory for a day filled with camaraderie and information sharing. The December 11, 2012 meeting attendees included representatives from the Board of Animal Health, MSU College of Veterinary Medicine, MSU Extension Service, MS Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, USDA Veterinary Services and Wildlife Services, the Veterinary Research and Diagnostic Laboratory, the MS Animal Control and Protection Association, Rescue League, MS Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks, the Humane Society of the US, and the MS State Department of Health.

The group meets at least once a year to discuss animal-related issues such as rabies, food and agriculture criticality and protection, wildlife, emergency response, and public health.

# Livestock Trailer Accident Response

Emergency responders were just settling in for a day of large animal rescue training in Verona when the call came on September 28th.

Jesse Carter, a field director with the MS Board of Animal Health (MBAH), was attending the class when he received the call from the central office of the MBAH. **A livestock trailer had overturned in DeSoto County. The trailer was on fire and cattle were loose on the road. Assistance was needed!**

Jesse, along with other trained first responders who were in the class, immediately reported to the scene of the accident. Many of them were from DeSoto County. Also in the class was Dr. Tom Abernethy, a veterinarian from Grenada. Dr. Abernethy, being a member of the Veterinary Strike Team with the MS Animal Response Team was logically chosen to assist. Dr. Mike Thompson, a local large animal veterinarian was also asked to assist on site.



Lance Newman, an Extension area livestock agent, was contacted by Extension's disaster preparedness coordinator to bring hay and other items that might be needed to the scene.

**"We tried to anticipate the needs for gathering up loose cattle. Often, when cattle are stressed like that, they won't wander far. They just want to be left alone," Newman said.**

Tim Curtis, deputy director of the DeSoto County Emergency Services, said a total of 105 recently weaned calves were on the trailer, 43 died at the scene. The experience confirmed his belief in the importance of the Incident Command System, or ICS.

**"For example, when the Mississippi Board of Animal Health's field director, Jesse Carter, arrived, he was briefed and immediately absorbed into our ICS structure as a technical specialist. He provided us with a tremendous amount of information and guidance," he said.**

**"The Incident Command System allowed a wealth of knowledge from multiple agencies to come together," Curtis said. "We had 14 separate agencies and numerous private resources come together and function as a team under the command structure. There were no turf battles, no disagreements or any of the problems that one would expect from an incident of this severity and magnitude."**

*-An excerpt from a MSU Ag Communications article*

14 separate agencies and numerous private resources functioned as a team under the Incident Command System.

# MART Benefits from Dog & Cat Behavior Class

The MBAH hosted a Dog and Cat Behavior/Handling course for MART members and animal control officers in October.

The course, designed by the National Animal Control Association, provided students with information and hands-on techniques for handling dogs and cats safely and appropriately in various situations.

In addition, common equipment used to capture and restrain animals was presented. Students worked with equipment and live animals to practice techniques learned in the classroom.

NACA instructors, Nina Wingfield and John Robinson from animal services in Collierville, TN, taught the class. Both donated their time to teach the class and we appreciate their willingness to share their knowledge. Jennifer Gardner with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) assisted with the hands-on instruction.

The course was funded by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). The MBAH works with IFAW during disaster response issues involving animals.

Look for more MART training coming soon...



## Recognize Potential Signs of Foreign Animal Disease!

1. Sudden, unexplained death loss in the herd or flock.
2. Severe illness affecting a high percentage of animals.
3. Blistering around an animal's mouth, nose, teats, or hooves.
4. Unusual ticks or maggots.
5. Staggering, falling or central nervous disorders.

To report, please call: MS Board of Animal Health at 601-359-1170 or toll-free at (888) 646-8731 or Veterinary Services - USDA MS Area Office at 601-965-4307.



Dr. Brigid Elchos, Deputy State Veterinarian, presents a plaque to Will McMillan in appreciation of his service to the Mississippi Board of Animal Health.



Join the Mississippi Animal Response Team and help animals during times of disaster.

## Board Member Spotlight



Dr. Greg Howell (L) speaks with Dr. David Smith and Dean Hoblett from MSU's College of Veterinary Medicine at a recent MBAH meeting.

**Dr. Greg Howell, DVM**, serves on the Board of Animal Health as a representative for the Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association. He has been a part of the Board since 2005 and is a past chairman.

Dr. Howell attended Delta State University before receiving his doctorate of veterinary medicine from Mississippi State University.

He has been a partner at Animal Medical Center in Brookhaven since 1993.

Dr. Howell is a member of the Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association and the American Veterinary Medical Association. He was awarded Mississippi's Young Veterinarian of the Year in 2000.

Dr. Howell is an active member of First United Methodist Church, and he and his wife, **Amye**, are parents to **Katie and Luke**. He enjoys being a part of his children's activities, and in any spare time likes to hunt and fish.

## "I Care" Car Tags Help MS Animals

So, what is the one thing all of you reading this newsletter have in common? You care for animals.

Well, isn't that an interesting segue? The state of Mississippi has a personalized car tag following that same theme..."I Care for Animals."

The funds from the sales of these tags go to assist animal shelters and other humane organizations within Mississippi, primarily with their spaying and neutering efforts.

Since 2004, this program has awarded funds to over 61 organizations around the state. I'm sure many of you work with these groups in their efforts to help animals.

When it is time for you to renew your car tag, I encourage you to help animals around Mississippi by purchasing an "I Care for Animals" specialty license plate.

Beth Adcock



**The MBAH's latest news can be found on Facebook.**  
[www.facebook.com/msboardofanimalhealth](http://www.facebook.com/msboardofanimalhealth)

# Exercise Promotes Resource Sharing

## Regional Multi-jurisdictional Resource Coordination Exercise

When mega-storms such as Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Sandy strike, state emergency managers can quickly exceed their resources and capability to respond to the disaster. When this happens, there are protocols that states must go through to request assistance from other states. The tool that states use to request disaster assistance from other states is an Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). In order for state emergency managers to become more familiar with this process, a Regional Multi-jurisdictional Resource Coordination Exercise (MJE) was sponsored by USDA Animal Care and hosted by The University of Georgia. MBAH emergency management (EM) personnel were invited to participate along with EM teams from eight southeastern states. All of these states are part the Southern Agricultural/Animal Disaster Response Alliance (SAADRA) network that was formed to assist each other during animal disease outbreaks and natural disasters.

The first day of the exercise, MBAH was asked to request a FEMA-typed resource from another state through the EMAC Coordinator in our SEOC. The second day we were asked to provide a requested FEMA-typed resource to another state.

The purpose of the exercise was to show state EMs the importance of FEMA-typing all of your state resources, listing them in their SEOC database, and preparing Mission Ready Packages (MRP) to **speed up the process in order to provide a more rapid response to another state's resource requests.** Fortunately, the MBAH has typed our resources and listed them in MEMA's WebEOC. This exercise showed us the importance of having MRPs prepared for other states to consider requesting when disaster strikes.

Ronnie White  
Emergency Coordinator

### Equine Infectious Anemia and Permits

There were 10 Equine Infectious Anemia cases for the year 2012. The MBAH monitors the disease by requiring a yearly Coggins test for horses traveling within the state. This includes horse shows, trail rides, training facilities and change of ownership, whether or not there is any monetary exchange. There is no vaccine for EIA. Many horses with the disease show no signs of sickness, but can still transmit the disease. The only way to check for spread of disease is through a yearly test. The management of equine events should be encouraged, by the participants, to check Coggins tests at the event.



**Equine Event Permits are available through our office.** The permit allows travel between states that accept the permit, which includes most of the southeast. Requirements are to submit a current Coggins test and health certificate along with pictures of the horse. The permit is valid for six months. The itinerary on the back of the permit must be completed upon expiration and prior to a request for a new permit. For questions call the MBAH.

Dr. Angeliki Polles  
EIA Program Coordinator



Mississippi Board of Animal Health  
P.O. Box 3889  
Jackson, MS 39207  
Phone—601-359-1170  
Fax—601-359-1177

Dr. Jim Watson  
State Veterinarian  
[jimw@mdac.ms.gov](mailto:jimw@mdac.ms.gov)

Dr. Brigid Elchos  
Deputy State Veterinarian  
[brigid@mdac.ms.gov](mailto:brigid@mdac.ms.gov)



Jayne Wells was recently hired as an Administrative Assistant with the MBAH. She is a former school teacher from Seattle, Washington, and now lives in Copiah County with her husband Frank.

Jayne is active in her community and has volunteered with her local animal shelter for years.

Welcome Jayne!

The Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association will host its Winter Meeting on February 21st-24th at MSU's College of Veterinary Medicine.

The MBAH will hold a class from 1:00-5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 21st. Ken Sullivan, a deputy with the Rankin County Sheriff's Office, will give a presentation on Mississippi Animal Cruelty Laws. Veterinary personnel in attendance will receive 4 hours of Continuing Education credit.

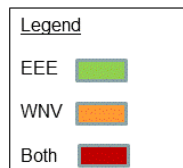
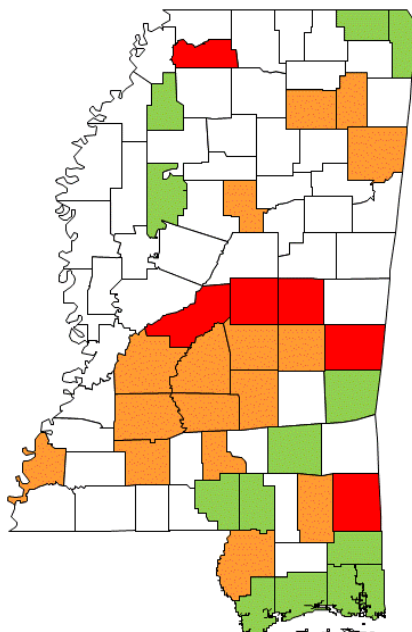
[www.mbah.ms.gov](http://www.mbah.ms.gov)

**Counties**      **No. Cases**

Adams	1
Alcorn	2
Clarke	1
Copiah	3
George	2
Greene	3
Hancock	1
Harrison	1
Hinds	2
Jackson	5
Jefferson Davis	1
Jones	2
Lamar	5
Lauderdale	3
Leake	2
Lee	2
Leflore	1
Lincoln	1
Madison	4
Marion	1
Monroe	1
Montgomery	1
Neshoba	5
Newton	1
Pearl River	2
Perry	1
Pontotoc	5
Rankin	6
Scott	1
Smith	1
Sunflower	1
Tate	2
Tishomingo	1

**Total**      71\*

**Mississippi Equine Cases  
West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis  
December 31, 2012**



\* Total cases include  
• 39 WNV  
• 32 EEE

West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis are both mosquito-borne viruses that affect humans and horses.

Cases most commonly occur spring through late fall but can occur throughout the year.

These diseases can be prevented in horses by vaccination.

Please see your local veterinarian for more information.